

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00336 070943Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0336

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JULY 3 PLENARY SESSION

1. AT THE JULY 3 PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR
NEGOTIATIONS, THE ONLY STATEMENT WAS DELIVERED BY
HUNGARIAN REP (PETRAN). MAIN POINTS OF HIS PRESENTATION
WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. HUNGARIAN REP IDENTIFIED THE NEED TO BUILD
UPON "THE RECENT MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN
COUNTRIES" TO EXTEND DETENTE TO THE WHOLE WORLD AND
GIVE IT AN "IRREVERSIBLE CHARACTER." "POLITICAL
LIMITATION AND PREVENTION OF THE ARMS RACE," WITH
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00336 070943Z

COMPLETE DISARMAMENT THE ULTIMATE GOAL, COULD CONSOLIDATE

THE PRESENT "POLITICAL RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION." "THE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THIS TREND."

3. PETRAN SAID THERE HAD BEEN A LACK OF "PERCEPTIBLE MOVEMENT TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING" SINCE THE OCT 1973 INCEPTION OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. HE REITERATED THE EASTERN POSITION THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS MUST ASSUME FROM THE OUTSET "SPECIFIC AND MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS TO REDUCE, ON AN EQUAL NUMBER AND EQUAL PERCENTAGE BASIS, THEIR ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE." WESTERN COUNTERPROPOSALS WERE STUBBORN, ARBITRARY, AND CONSTITUTED A "UNILATERAL DEPARTURE" FROM THE UNDERSTANDING SET FORTH IN THE JUNE 1973 COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PREPARATORY TALKS. ONE COULD NOT IGNORE "EXISTING REALITIES" OF THE FORCE RELATIONSHIP WITHIN AND BETWEEN "THE TWO MILITARY-POLITICAL GROUPINGS" IN EUROPE. PETRAN REJECTED THE WESTERN NOTION OF "DISPARITIES" AS IRRELEVANT TO A VALID COMPARISON OF COMBAT CAPABILITIES OF THE TWO SIDES.

4. THE HUNGARIAN REP CLAIMED THE CONCEPT OF "DISPARITIES" AS DEFINED BY THE WEST OVERLOOKED BOTH NATO NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AND NATO DOCTRINE ON USE OF NUCLEARS. MOREOVER, THE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH ADVOCATED BY THE EAST WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION ADOPTED BY THE NATO COUNCIL ITSELF IN THE MAY 1970 ROME DECLARATION STATING THAT "REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO FOREIGN AND NATIONAL FORCES AND TO THEIR WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN THE CORRESPONDING AREA". PETRAN CITED THE JUNE 13 BREZHNEV SPEECH IN FURTHER SUPPORT OF THE NECESSITY TO INCLUDE NUCLEAR ASPECTS IN THE MBFR DELIBERATIONS.

5. PETRAN OBSERVED THAT "THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES TO A GREAT EXTENT DETERMINES THE CLIMATE OF INTERNATIONAL LIFE" (COMMENT: THIS MIGHT BE QUOTED BACK AT THE EAST AT SOME POINT AS ARGUING FOR PHASED APPROACH. END COMMENT). THE SERIES OF SOVIET/US
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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00336 070943Z

ARMS CONTROL ACCORDS REACHED IN RECENT YEARS OPENED THE POSSIBILITY FOR A "CONSTRUCTIVE UNDERSTANDING" EMANATING FROM THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, SUCH AN OUTCOME REQUIRED THE WESTERN SIDE TO SUBSTITUTE "REALISM AND FLEXIBILITY" FOR THE "PERSISTENCE" WITH WHICH IT HAS SO FAR DEFENDED ITS POSITION.

6. THE FULL TEXT OF THE HUNGARIAN STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.

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